

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-02-10

9-3-02

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION TESTING FEE

1. PURPOSE

This Program Notice is issued to inform interested parties, particularly mycotoxin and biotechnology test kit manufacturers, that on August 4, 2002, the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) implemented a testing fee for performance evaluations of test kits submitted for GIPSA approval/certification.

2. BACKGROUND

For over 12 years, GIPSA's Technical Services Division (TSD) has provided performance evaluations of mycotoxin test kits for private corporations seeking GIPSA approval of their kits into the official inspection system. In recent years, GIPSA has expanded the performance evaluation program to include test kits that identify specific biotech events. GIPSA viewed the performance evaluation program as servicing the needs of the grain industry and, thus, provided the service free-of-charge to the test kit manufacturers.

However, competition in the marketplace for quicker, more accurate test kits has fueled a significant increase in the number of requests for performance evaluation testing. The increase of evaluation requests has strained GIPSA resources for the program and, as a result, has led GIPSA to start assessing a "service fee" for all performance evaluations. The fees collected will cover, as nearly as practicable, GIPSA's costs for the service, including related administrative and supervisory costs.

3. HOURLY FEE

Section 800.71(a) of the regulations in the United States Grain Standards Act provide for a miscellaneous service fee (Schedule A, Table 3) for specialized services. GIPSA will assess the current fee of \$55.00 per hour, per service representative, for performance evaluation testing.

The fee is applicable to all test kits submitted to GIPSA for evaluation, regardless of whether the kits meet/do not meet GIPSA performance standards.

4. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions concerning fees for performance evaluation testing to Don Kendall, TSD, at (816) 891-0463.

/s/ Steven N. Tanner

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